AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of licensing digital content, the method comprising:

> examining the digital content to identify data indicating that the content is subject to a first license and a second license, wherein the data includes a license-specific portion licensing information, and wherein the first license corresponds to a first entity and the second license corresponds to a second entity;
>
> determining a status of the license licenses based on the data; and
>
> processing the digital content subject to the status.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein examining the digital content comprises searching the content for [[a]] license statement statements.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data includes a human readable portion.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data includes an encrypted portion.

5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein determining a status of the ~~license~~ licenses comprises requesting the status of the ~~license~~ licenses from [[a]] at least one server.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein requesting status from [[a]] at least one server further comprises sending to the server a portion of the data.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the data includes an encrypted portion and sending a portion of the data to the server comprises sending the encrypted portion.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising caching a response from the server, wherein determining a status of the ~~license~~ licenses comprises:

        ~~inspecting the cache for a response from the server and~~

        finding in a cache at least one cache entry corresponding to the data;

        determining validity of the cache entry; and

        based on a determination that the cache entry is not valid, requesting the
                status of the ~~license~~ licenses from the server ~~responsive to the
                inspection of the cache~~.

10.   (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 [[10]] wherein determining the validity of the cache entry comprises determining that the cache entry has not expired.

12. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein processing the digital content subject to the status comprises processing at least a portion of the digital content in parallel with determining the status.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing the digital content subject to the status comprises processing at least a portion of the digital content in parallel with determining the status.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data includes a portion for determining whether the content has been altered.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein processing the digital content comprises selectively applying first and second processing routines to the data subject to the determined status.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein selectively applying first and second processing routines to the data comprises applying the first processing routine to the data and not applying the second processing routing to the data.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein determining a status of the ~~license~~ licenses comprises determining, based on a plain-text assertion in the licensing information, that the license is for non-commercial use.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising indicating to a user that the content is for commercial use.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method of licensing digital content, the method comprising:

    providing first software that embeds in the digital content data indicative of a first license and a second license, the data including ~~a license specific portion~~ licensing information, wherein the first license corresponds to a first entity and the second license corresponds to a second entity; and

    providing second software that:

        identifies the data in the digital content;

        determines a status of the ~~license~~ licenses ~~indicated by the digital content~~ based on the data; and

        processes the digital content responsive to the status.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein identifying the data indicative of a license licenses comprises searching the digital content for [[a]] license statement statements.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein identifying the data includes a human readable portion.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the data includes an encrypted portion.

23.   (Canceled).

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein determining the status of the license licenses comprises requesting the status of the license licenses from [[a]] at least one server.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein requesting the status from the server further comprises sending a portion of the data to the server.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the data includes an encrypted portion and sending the portion of the data to the server comprises sending the encrypted portion.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising caching a response from the server, wherein determining a status of the ~~license~~ licenses comprises:

      ~~inspecting the cache for a response from the server and~~

      finding in a cache at least one cache entry corresponding to the data;

      determining validity of the cache entry; and

      based on a determination that the cache entry is not valid, requesting the status of the ~~license~~ licenses from the server ~~responsive to the inspection of the cache~~.

28.   (Canceled).

29.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 [[28]] wherein determining the validity of the cache entry comprises determining that the cache entry has not expired.

30.   (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein processing the digital content subject to the determined status comprise processing at least a portion of the digital content in parallel with determining the status.

31.   (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein processing the digital content subject to the determined status comprises processing at least a portion of the digital content in parallel with determining the status.

32. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the data includes a portion for determining whether the digital content has been altered.

33. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein processing the digital content comprises selectively applying first and second processing routines to the data subject to the determined status.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein selectively applying first and second processing routines to the data comprises applying the first processing routine to the data responsive to the determined status and not applying the second processing routine to the data responsive to the determined status.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein determining a status of the license comprises determining, based on a plain-text assertion in the licensing information, that the license is for non-commercial use of the content.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 further comprising indicating to a user that the content is for non-commercial use.

37.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus for licensing digital content, the apparatus comprising:

    a general purpose computer; and

    a memory, the memory including programmed instructions for:

        examining the digital content to identify data indicating that the content is subject to a first license and a second license, the data including a license-specific portion licensing information, and wherein the first license corresponds to a first entity and the second license corresponds to a second entity;

        determining a status of the license licenses based on the data; and

        processing the digital content subject to the status.

38.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein examining the digital content comprises searching the content for [[a]] license statement statements.

39.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the data includes a human readable portion and an encrypted portion.

40.   (Canceled).

41.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37 [[1]] wherein determining the status of the ~~license~~ licenses comprises sending a portion of the data to [[a]] at least one server and requesting the status of the ~~license~~ licenses from the server based on the data.

42.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the data includes an encrypted portion and sending a portion of the data to the server comprises sending the encrypted portion.

43.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41 further comprising caching a response from the server, wherein determining a status of the license comprises:

        ~~inspecting the cache for a response from the server and~~

        finding in a cache at least one cache entry corresponding to the data;

        determining validity of the cache entry; and

        based on a determination that the cache entry is not valid, requesting the status of the ~~license~~ licenses from the server ~~responsive to the inspection of the cache~~.

44.   (Canceled).

45.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein processing the digital content subject to the status comprises processing at least a portion of the digital content in parallel with determining the status.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein processing the digital content subject to the status comprises processing at least a portion of the digital content in parallel with determining the status.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the data includes a portion for determining whether the digital content has been altered.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein processing the digital content comprises selectively applying first and second processing routines to the data subject to the determined status.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein selectively applying first and second processing routines to the data comprises applying the first processing routine to the data and not applying the second processing routine to the data.

50. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein determining a status of the license comprises determining, based on a plain-text assertion in the licensing information, that the license is for non-commercial use and indicating to a user that the content is licensed for non-commercial use.

51. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second license is nested within the first license.

52.   (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the second license is nested within the first license.

53.   (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the second license is nested within the first license.